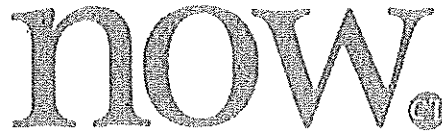


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Good morning Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak and the esteemed members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employees. The Connecticut chapter of the National Organization for Women (CT NOW) thanks you for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of Governor Malloy's bill, HB 6850, An Act Concerning Pay Equity and Fairness.

Wage discrimination remains a serious problem in the workplace. While the discussion often focuses on women, it is experienced by many groups across American society. HB 6850 makes a significant step toward lowering wage discrimination by prohibiting employers from forbidding employees from discussing or inquiring about their own wages or the wages of their coworkers.

Any employee experiencing wage discrimination deserves both the tools to become aware of such discrimination and the opportunity to remedy it. Currently, however, some employers prohibit employees from discussing their wages with coworkers, either through the culture of the workplace or through contracts signed upon beginning a job. Countless people would benefit from the transparency encouraged by this legislation.

CT NOW applauds Governor Malloy for putting forth HB 6850. HB 6850 brings Connecticut a step closer to closing the wage gap, and we respectfully urge the Labor Committee to vote favorably on this bill.